(b) if so, whether it wants health mission entirely to be Centrally funded because the States have regularly failed to set aside funds for health; and

(c) if so, whether the Abhiyan would enhance quantity and quality of the health sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) One of the interventions recommended by the Planning Commission in the Mid-term appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan related to launch of Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan on the lines of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is largely based on the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and aims at providing accessible, affordable, effective, accountable and reliable healthcare to all citizens and in particular, to the poorer and the vulnerable sections of the population. The NRHM is basically a strategy for energizing public healthcare already available under the Government system. At the time of finalization of NRHM strategies, the strategies adopted under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have been taken into consideration. There is no recommendation of the Planning Commission that the Health Mission should be entirely Centrally funded. In any event, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is also not fully funded by the Central Government.

Rules for preventing food adulteration

359. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rules and regulations governing prevention of food adulteration in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the existing laws have proved to be ineffective in preventing food adulteration in the country;

(c) whether any comparative study has been undertaken between the Indian laws and those adopted by the Developed Nations to learn how those countries have succeeded in nearly eliminating food adulteration and the shortcomings of the Indian laws; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether such a study would be instituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Adulteration in food stuffs is checked and regulated in the country under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act has been amended thrice so far, in 1964, 1976 and 1986 to plug the loop-holes and make the law more stringent and also to empower the recognized consumer organizations to play active role in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Progamme.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the rules made there-under provide for adequte provisions to check and curb the adulteration and misbranding of food articles. The Act provides for strict penal provisions against the offenders.

Standards of quality have been laid down under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 for more than 270 articles of food. Most of the rules and regulations laid down under these rules are in conformity with the guidelines laid down by the Codex Alimentarious Commission, an International body of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Health Organisation (WHO) of the United Nations.

Adulteration in milk products

360. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidence of food adulteration, particularly involving milk products, is taking place rampantly unhindered across the nation;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of cases detected during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that the existing laws are not stringent enough to totally eliminate food adulteration in the country;

(d) if so, whether Government are considering to amend the laws so as to incorporate severe penal action, including death penalty, against the culprits; and